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Air Force Predator destroyed mortar launcher and insurgents

SOUTHWEST ASIA – An Air Force MQ-1B Predator unmanned aerial vehicle fired Hellfire missiles against a motor position and hostile individuals in Basra, Iraq April 11.

The Predator was providing surveillance for ground forces that had been taking fire that evening. During their scans, they discovered multiple individuals congregating on a street and acting suspicious. The Predator tracked these individuals for a couple hours, but was unable to determine their intentions. Suspicions increased when the individuals were seen hastily working on something in the middle of the street. The Predator detected mortars were being fired from a tube that the group had been preparing and aligning earlier to fire at friendly troops.

Once given clearance to engage the target, they fired their air to surface missiles and destroyed the launcher and killed a number of hostile individuals.

To view the full weapons system video clips, go to:
<http://www.afcent.af.mil/news/afcentvideo.asp> For more information, contact U.S. Air Forces Central Public Affairs at commercial 011-974-458-9555 then connect to DSN 436-4381/4014/4379 or at afforpa@auab.centaf.af.mil.